

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1-37 (Canceled)

1 38. (Currently amended) A computer implemented client method for
2 dynamically managing a user software license, the method comprising:
3 receiving an action from the user to access ~~a feature from one or more features of~~
4 a-an additional feature for an existing software program, wherein the
5 additional feature provides an additional functionality for the software
6 program;
7 responsive to receiving the action from the user, sending a request to a server
8 computer for an authorization to access the additional feature of the
9 software program, the request including license verification information
10 concerning the user, ~~thereby allowing the server computer to determine~~
11 ~~whether current software license information concerning the user needs to~~
12 ~~be updated and, based on the determination, to store an update to the~~
13 ~~current software license information;~~
14 receiving the additional feature of the software program and current software
15 license information concerning the user from the server computer; and
16 storing received current software license information concerning the user,
17 wherein the received current software license information indicates that
18 the user is licensed to run the additional feature.

1 39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38 wherein the received
2 current software license information concerning the user indicates that the user is not
3 licensed to run the software program, the method further comprising performing at least
4 one step from a group of steps comprising:

5 displaying a message to the user indicating that the user is not licensed to
6 run the software program;
7 providing the user with an opportunity to purchase a license to run the
8 software program;
9 allowing the user to run the software program without a license for a
10 limited time only;
11 allowing the user to run the software program without a license a limited
12 number of times only; and
13 terminating the software program, such that the user cannot run the
14 software program.

1 40. (Previously presented) The client method of claim 38 wherein:
2 the received current software license information concerning the user
3 comprises modified license information concerning the user.

1 41. (Previously presented) The client method of claim 40 wherein the
2 modified license information concerning the user comprises a user software license from
3 a group of user software licenses comprising:

4 an activated user software license;
5 a deactivated user software license;
6 an extended user software license;
7 a restricted user software license;
8 an upgraded user software license; and
9 a downgraded user software license.

1 42. (Previously presented) The client method of claim 38 wherein receiving
2 current software license information concerning the user includes a hardware
3 configuration identifier of a computer associated with the user, the method further
4 comprising:

5 creating a current hardware configuration identifier of the computer
6 associated with the user; and
7 comparing the received hardware configuration identifier to the current
8 hardware configuration identifier.

1 43. (Previously presented) The client method of claim 42 further comprising:
2 responsive to a difference between the received hardware configuration
3 identifier and the current hardware configuration identifier being
4 below a predetermined threshold, allowing the user to run the
5 software program.

1 44. (Previously presented) The client method of claim 42 further comprising:
2 responsive to a difference between the received hardware configuration
3 identifier and the current hardware configuration identifier not
4 being below a predetermined threshold, terminating the software
5 program, such that the user cannot run the software program.

1 45. (Previously presented) The client method of claim 42 further comprising:
2 responsive to a difference between the received hardware configuration
3 identifier and the current hardware configuration identifier not
4 being below a predetermined threshold, performing at least one
5 step from a group of steps comprising:
6 displaying a message to the user indicating that the user is not
7 licensed to run the software program;
8 providing the user with an opportunity to purchase a license to run
9 the software program;

10 allowing the user to run the software program without a license for
11 a limited time only; and
12 allowing the user to run the software program without a license a
13 limited number of times only.

1 46. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium containing instructions
2 that, when executed, cause the computer system to perform desired actions for
3 dynamically managing a user software license, wherein the instructions comprise:
4 program code for receiving an action from the user to access ~~a feature from one or~~
5 ~~more features of a~~ an additional feature for an existing software program,
6 wherein the additional feature provides an additional functionality for the
7 software program;
8 program code for, responsive to receiving the action from the user, sending a
9 request to a server computer for an authorization to access the additional
10 feature of the software program, the request including license verification
11 information concerning the user, ~~thereby allowing the server computer to~~
12 ~~determine whether current software license information concerning the~~
13 ~~user needs to be updated and, based on the determination, to store an~~
14 ~~update to the current software license information;~~
15 program code for receiving the additional feature of the software program and
16 current software license information concerning the user from the server
17 computer; and
18 program code for storing received current software license information
19 concerning the user, wherein the received current software license
20 information indicates that the user is licensed to run the additional feature.

1 47. (Currently amended) A computer system for dynamically managing a
2 user software license, the computer system comprising:
3 a mechanism for receiving an action from the user to access ~~a feature from one~~
4 ~~or more features of a~~ an additional feature for an existing software

5 program, wherein the additional feature provides an additional
6 functionality for the software program;

7 a mechanism for, responsive to receiving the action from the user, sending a
8 request to a server computer for an authorization to access the additional
9 feature of the software program, the request including license
10 verification information concerning the user, ~~thereby allowing the~~
11 ~~server computer to determine whether current software license~~
12 ~~information concerning the user needs to be updated and, based on the~~
13 ~~determination, to store an update to the current software license~~
14 ~~information;~~

15 a mechanism for receiving the additional feature of the software program and
16 current software license information concerning the user from the server
17 computer; and

18 a mechanism for storing received current software license information
19 concerning the user, wherein the received current software license
20 information indicates that the user is licensed to run the additional
21 feature.